

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-78. (canceled)

Claim 79. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 76,~~ A method of reproducing audio data from a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

connecting a user identification module to a data player
for reproducing the audio data from the recording medium;

mutually authenticating the user identification module and
the data player;

reading the audio data from the recording medium using the
data player;

comparing module identification data buried in the read
audio data with module identification data in the user
identification module;

if the compared module identification data is coincident,
reproducing the audio data; and

if the compared module identification data is not
coincident, detecting a reproduction rule buried in the read
audio data and reproducing the audio data in accordance with the
reproduction rule;

wherein the audio data is reproduced when the compared module identification data is coincident by decrypting the audio data using user identification data from the user identification module,

decompressing the decrypted audio data, and decoding the decompressed audio data.

Claims 80-83. (canceled)

Claim 84. (currently amended) ~~The system according to claim 81,~~ A system for reproducing audio data, comprising:

a data player for reproducing the audio data from a recording medium;

a user identification module connected to the data player via a cable; wherein the user identification module contains module identification data uniquely identifying the user identification module and user identification data uniquely identifying a user;

the system mutually authenticates the data player and the user identification module;

the data player reads the audio data from the recording medium and compares module identification data buried in the read audio data with the module identification data in the user identification module;

wherein if the compared module identification data is coincident, the data player reproduces the audio data; and

wherein if the compared module identification data is not coincident, the data player detects a reproduction rule buried in the read audio data and reproduces the audio data in

accordance with the reproduction rule;

wherein the audio data is reproduced when the compared module identification data is coincident by decrypting the audio data using user identification data from the user identification module, decompressing the decrypted audio data, and decoding the decompressed audio data.

Claim 85. (canceled)